

**Roundtail chub**  
**(*Gila robusta*)**

**STATUS:** None.

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** The roundtail chub is a member of the minnow family Cyprinidae. The roundtail chub is characterized by a robust body and tail trunk. It is an olive gray color with silvery sides and a white belly. The roundtail chub matures at about 3 years of age with an unknown life expectancy. Breeding males develop red or orange coloration on the lower half of the cheek and the bases of paired fins. Individuals may reach 49.0 cm (19.3 in) but usually average 25-30 cm (9.8 - 11.8 in). Spawning occurs in the late spring; females broadcast about 2,000 tiny sticky eggs over gravel/cobble bottom. Transparent larvae [25 mm (1/3" long)] hatch in 5 days and grow to about 76 mm (3 inches) in one year.

**HABITAT:** Roundtail chubs occur in cool to warm water, mid-elevation rivers and streams throughout the Colorado River basin, often occupying open areas of the deepest pools and eddies of middle-sized to larger streams. They occasionally concentrate in relatively swift, turbulent waters below rapids, moving into less turbulent chutes in small groups. Roundtail chubs are often associated with cover in the form of boulders, overhanging cliffs, undercut banks, or vegetation. However, they are less prone to using cover than other species of *Gila* found in the Gila River basin.

**RANGE: Historic:** Roundtail chub were historically found in the mainstems and many perennial tributaries of the Colorado, Little Colorado, Bill Williams, Gila, Verde, Salt, San Francisco, San Pedro, and Zuni rivers; and Mexico

**Current:** The species is restricted to the Colorado River basin and parts of northwestern Mexico. Roundtail chub have been recorded in approximately 19 streams in the lower Colorado River basin (Coconino, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, LaPaz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pinal, and Yavapai counties, Arizona).

**REASON FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Roundtail chub populations have declined due to a combination of habitat loss and degradation related to dams, diversions, groundwater pumping, mining, recreation, livestock grazing, and competition and predation from non-native fishes. In the Colorado River basin, roundtail chub occupy only 18% of their historical range.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:**

**NOTES:** Considered a sport fish by Arizona Game and Fish Department.